IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-10 (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended): A turbo decoder operative to use a soft output Viterbi algorithm, said turbo decoder comprising:

a first soft output Viterbi algorithm (SOVA) decoding unit;

a second SOVA decoding unit, wherein an output of the first SOVA decoding unit is connected to an input of the second SOVA decoding unit and an output of the second SOVA decoding unit is connected to an input of the first SOVA decoding unit; and

a normalization unit, wherein an output of the normalization unit is connected to the output of the first SOVA decoding unit,

wherein no normalization unit is provided between the output of the second SOVA decoding unit and the input of the first SOVA decoding unit ~~a number of normalization units included in the turbo decoder is smaller than the number of decoding units included in the turbo decoder~~.

12-13 (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A mobile communications device comprising a turbo decoder according to claim 11.

15. (Currently Amended): A turbo decoding method operative to use a soft output Viterbi algorithm, said turbo decoding method comprising the steps of:

providing a first and second <u>soft output Viterbi algorithm (SOVA)</u> decoding unit,

wherein an output of the first <u>SOVA</u> decoding unit is connected to an input of the second

<u>SOVA</u> decoding unit and an output of the second <u>SOVA</u> decoding unit is connected to an

input of the first <u>SOVA</u> decoding unit,

normalizing <u>first</u> data obtained from the first <u>SOVA</u> decoding unit by connecting the

output of a normalization unit to the output of the first <u>SOVA</u> decoding unit,

wherein <u>second data obtained from the second SOVA decoding unit is not normalized</u>

<u>before being input to the input of the first SOVA decoding unit</u> ~~a number of normalization~~

~~units used in the turbo decoding method is smaller than the number of decoding units used in~~

~~the turbo decoding method~~.

16-17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended): The turbo decoding method according to claim 15,

wherein <u>the first</u> data obtained from use of the first <u>SOVA</u> decoding unit is

normalized with a normalization factor variable during operation ~~and data obtained from use~~

~~of the second decoding unit is normalized with a time constant normalization factor~~.

19-30 (Canceled).